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## Newsletter

### Number 16

### 18 June 2010



**Website** [www.matarau.school.nz](http://www.matarau.school.nz)

**Phone / Fax** (09) 433 5823 **Email** – admin@matarau.school.nz

#### Thanks

- .. To those parents who supported our year 4 to 6 children at today's Winter Sports Tournament.
- .. Maria Fribbens for the treats dropped by to the staffroom this week.
- .. Those parents who have already booked interview slots for 28 & 29 June.

#### People of the week

- .. Abbey for "Player of the Day" for Matarau Sparkles netball.
- .. Jordan for "Player of the Day" for Ruatangata B Hockey team.
- .. Rhyan for playing at half time during the NZ Maori and Barbarian game last Saturday.
- .. Our awesome support staff for their diligent and conscientious services day in and day out (national support staff day was this week).
- .. Andrew (and other seniors) for commitment to his science fair project and Brad for a growing commitment to his work more generally.

#### Science Fair

Our school Science Fair will be open for viewing the week beginning 28 June. You are especially invited to wander through the hall on the evenings of 28 and 29 June on the way to and from parent interviews. Please feel free to complete some of the information search activities with your children and to provide feedback on the forms provided. Science Fair prize giving will be held at 7:00 PM on 29 June. All children receiving awards (they will know at the end of the previous week) are asked to be in attendance. A special thanks to Heatpump Professionals who are sponsors of this year's fair.

#### Coming up

- .. 25 June - Year 5 and 6 Rippa Rugby
- .. 28 / 29 June - Parent / Teacher interviews
- .. 29 June - Science Fair prize giving
- .. 30 June - Senior Rock Climbing day (Taurikura)
- .. 2 July - Final day of term 2
- .. 19 July - First day of term 3

**think... SOLD!**

think yellow,  
think...

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### Late arrivals

A number of children are arriving late to school. It is so important that these children are properly prepared for class, that they learn the importance of being on time, and that the flow of lessons is not interrupted. If there is anything we can do to help with timely arrivals (we suggest children arrive at LEAST 10 minutes before 9:00 AM bell) please let us know. We are legally required to log all late arrivals in our Student Management System and to address consistent patterns of lateness. The co-operation of parents in this matter would be much appreciated - remember we are here to help if we can.

### School Photos - 28 July 2010

Photo information sheets have been sent home today. If you would like to order a class, individual, family or team photo please complete and return, with money, before the end of this term. Photos will be taken 28 July. Family photos will be taken from 8:30 AM on the morning of 28 July and so, if you would like a family photo please phone Helen next week to book a slot. Thanks.

### Focus on the Innovation Class

Remember to drop by the office to view artworks produced by our Innovation Class.

This week our focus artist is Hayoon Seo. Hayoon's artwork is based on a tropical theme using watercolours and pastels. Hayoon said the most difficult part was getting the colouring of outer space correct. She is happy with her work and would not change anything.

### Famine Money

Thanks to all of those involved in this year's famine. Around \$1,200 raised this year - WELL DONE!

### Portfolios

.. were issued today (except for middle school students which received these yesterday). Portfolios provide an opportunity for you to view samples of work in main learning areas and to compare these with samples gathered earlier in the year (or even in the previous year). Portfolios are NOT stand alone documents, impressions should be weighed against those gathered from Indicator Reports (issued earlier in the year), Data Reports (issued at interviews), Summative Reports (issued at the end of the year), as well as the anecdotal observations made throughout the year. Remember, the best impressions are those validated from multiple sources - this is where we get the truest picture of your child's strengths and needs. So, when you receive your portfolio next week..

- .. **find a time to look through it WITH your child** - a special time and place free from distraction
- .. **celebrate what they do well** (especially ask them to walk you through their boast section - this is where they have included work they are particularly proud of)
- .. **take particular notice of progress** and praise them for this
- .. quietly **note down any questions or areas of concern** for later discussion with their teacher
- .. most of all, be positive, celebrate the gains and **have fun!**

### Parent / Teacher Interviews - 28/29 June

Parents are encouraged to attend these interviews if at all possible (children are not required unless requested by a teacher). The intention of mid-year interviews is to discuss portfolios (please remember to bring these with you), present and discuss achievement information, review progress and set targets moving forward. Mid year Data Reports will also be presented to you at interviews with any necessary explanations - you can then take these away with you.

- .. **Interview appointment forms** were sent home last Friday, please return asap to the office.
- .. **Confirmation of interview appointment times** will be sent home early next week.

If you are unable to make the interview nights of 28 and 29 June please contact your child's teacher for an alternative time.

### Data Reports

As advised these will be presented, and briefly discussed, at mid year interviews. Please note that parents of year 1 and 2 students will not receive data reports for these students.

### Early Buses

A reminder that school finishes at 2:30 PM on 28 and 29 June with buses running around 30-40 minutes earlier than normal. We apologise for any inconvenience caused by these slightly early closures.

### My Learner Journey

At March interviews parents, teachers and children identified areas of special focus for inclusion on a Learner Journey sheet. Children have been working on these targets in the intervening period, and are now being asked to determine their next step. At the front of your child's portfolio you will find your child's Learner Journey Sheet. **Before interviews** could you please discuss these goals with your child and (in the column titled "By the end of year I will ..") **pencil in** the next step they might take in pursuit of this goal. Often goals need to be modified, or new goals set, and so this is the opportunity for this. In some cases you will find that your child has already pencilled in some thoughts - where this is the case, please feel free to make additions to the sheet. If needing ideas, or support, please contact us in the week before interviews.

### Shine programme - year 7 and 8 girls

A reminder to phone Vikki (4354461) if you would like your daughter to participate in this programme. Vikki needs to know numbers soon to see if there is enough interest to proceed. Vikki is happy to answer any questions.

### Pubertal Change

A reminder that year 7 and 8 children will participate in a pubertal change unit during the period 19 to 30 July (first 2 weeks of term 3). Parents wanting information on this programme are invited to contact their child's teacher.

### Pubertal Change Resource booklet - year 6 children

These booklets will be handed out week beginning 21 June. If you would prefer to collect (or personally receive) your child's booklet please contact the school next week.

### Rippa Rugby Tournament

Parents of year 5 and 6 children will have been advised that this tournament will now take place 25 June and 17 September. If you have not received a second consent form please contact the school office. Please return consents asap. Any questions please to Miss Bevin or Mrs Witte. We are very keen to hear from parents able to assist with lunchtime practices.

### International Schools English and Maths Exams

A reminder other test dates are as follows .. English 3 August .. Maths 17 August. Please encourage children to complete at LEAST one practice paper each week and to return these to the office for replacement. The first maths practice papers will be handed out next week. Candidates have been asked to negotiate with their teachers if homework loads are too heavy - it is possible for these practice papers to stand in lieu of other homework. Let us know if you need any help.

### Children remaining at school after bell

Most urban schools ask for pick up of children within the first 10 / 15 minutes of final bell. As a country school we feel it is important for children to connect with their friends briefly after school, and so allow them to remain at school until around 3:25 (departure time for the third and fourth buses). **Please note that children remaining at school after 3:25 should be placed in After School Care unless they are travelling into town on the final (fifth) bus. The ASC programme has a special rate for users from 3:00 to 4:00 and so this is an ideal opportunity to have homework completed before they get home. Please book in to this programme by phoning 0278461724 if you know your children are at school after 3:25 - this way they will be properly supervised and gainfully employed.**

### SKIDS

Application forms are now available to book places for your children into the fun filled School Holiday Child Care Program. If you do not have one attached to this newsletter, please contact Marcelle the Program Manager [matarau@skids.co.nz](mailto:matarau@skids.co.nz) to receive the application form electronically, or telephone 0278461724. Alternatively you could collect one from the School Office or pop into the hall. Remember there are great subsidies available, you could be paying as little as 3.00 per day! Please ask if you would like more details. Our apologies for a small date mistake on the flyer!



### Lost Property

With the end of term fast approaching it might be timely for you to have a look through the lost property bin (outside room 10) when next passing the school. Unclaimed items will be given to charities at the end of the term.

### Community Notices

To Rent - 3 bedroom house, Kamo area \$260, 0272737059

For Sale - Shed-dry firewood for sale - old pine. Pickup \$50 Tel 4338185.

Wanted - Any unwanted pet ewe lamb's or ewes to go to a wonderful home. Ph Neroli 4338185.

Hockey Holiday Program - Hockey Northland running its popular holiday hockey program in the first week of July School Holidays. For more info contact Bevan Gibbs 09 43738380.

Lighthouse Ultimate Car Rally - 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 5.45pm to 8pm. For 9-13 year olds. For more info contact Jennie Clarke 4353890 or Liz Gardiner 021325671

Farm Garage Sale - Moving overseas. From farm and garden tools to kitchen allsorts. Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July at 75 Miro Rd, Ruatangata, 10am to 3pm.

### Remember when analysing achievement information that ..

- 1) Trends are always much more important than "one offs"
- 2) That impressions from one source of information should always be confirmed by impressions from at least one other source before conclusions are drawn
- 3) That by training and experience your child's teacher is the best person to explain achievement information and place this information in context
- 4) That it is normal for children to have periods of acceleration followed by periods where achievement seems to plateau
- 5) That there are innumerable skills that fall outside of any single test design and that these skills are important too - thus all single assessments / tests have severe limitations and should be treated accordingly.

### Final thought

Earlier this week I congratulated one of our seniors on an excellent rep game the previous weekend. On doing this he responded that someone else had played just as well. I said that I doubted this as I had heard he was the star of the day, to which he responded "we are all equal really because we are the same team". I thought this was cool enough to share. Let's meditate on this wisdom a little over the weekend.

Regards  
Kevin Trewhella  
PRINCIPAL

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*Hayoon Seo's  
Tropical Theme*

**School Ball – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, School Hall, 7.00pm**  
**Tickets available from the office, starting to sell fast.**  
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